

SENATE BILL 1993

By Watson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 8; Title 9 and Title 12, relative to
discrimination against Israel.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 12, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following language as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Boycott of Israel" means engaging in refusals to deal, terminating
business activities, or other commercial actions that are intended to limit
commercial relations with Israel, or companies doing business in or with Israel or
authorized by, licensed by, or organized under the laws of the State of Israel to
do business, or persons or entities doing business in Israel, when such actions
are taken:

(A) In compliance with, or adherence to, calls for a boycott of
Israel, or

(B) In a manner that discriminates on the basis of nationality,
national origin, religion, or other unreasonable basis, and is not based on
a valid business reason;

(2) "Company" means a for-profit or not-for-profit organization,
association, corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited
liability partnership, limited liability company, or other entity or business
association, including all wholly owned subsidiaries, majority-owned subsidiaries,
parent companies, or affiliates of those entities or business associations;

(3) "Israel" means the State of Israel; and

(4) "Public entity" means this state or any political subdivision thereof, including all boards, commissions, agencies, institutions, authorities, counties, municipalities, and other bodies politic and corporate of this state, created by or in accordance with state law or rule.

(b) A public entity shall not enter into a contract with a company to acquire or dispose of services, supplies, information technology, or construction unless the contract includes a written certification that the company is not currently engaged in, and will not for the duration of the contract engage in, a boycott of Israel.

(c) This section does not apply to a contract with a total potential value of less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) or to contractors with less than ten (10) employees.

(d) A contract entered into on or after July 1, 2022, that fails to comply with this section is void.

(e) The commissioner of finance and administration or the commissioner's designee may promulgate rules to implement this section so long as the rules are consistent with this section and do not create exceptions to it.

(f) This section does not diminish or infringe upon a right protected under the constitution of this state or the first amendment to the constitution of the United States.

(g) This section must not be construed to conflict with local, state, or federal discrimination laws.

SECTION 2. For the purposes of promulgating rules, this act takes effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.